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CLASSIFICATION

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50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION FROM

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China

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Chinese

REPORT NO.

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SOURCE

Newspapers as indicated.

## DISCUSSES NARCOTICS SALES AND POPPY GROWING IN CHINA

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

According to a pro-Communist newspaper, on 1 June 1951, an antinarcotics meeting was held in a large athletic field in Canton. The crowd, numbering about 5,000, included several thousand narcotics users and addicts. The meeting was highlighted by the burning of narcotics and equipment, and by speeches by important officials who discussed the evils of narcotics addiction (1)

Another pro-Communist paper reported that during 1950, 21,700 ounces of narcotics were confiscated from 89 haiens in Shensi, Kansu, Ningsia, and in Sian. Of the total number of addicts placed in rehabilitation centers in Sian, 800 persons were cured. The same source reported that narcotics users in Pao-chi have increased, as shown by the fact that of the 18,400 ounces of narcotics confiscated in that city from August 1949 to September 1950, 17,100 ounces were confiscated during the period July to September 1950.

The same pro-Communist paper stated that in August 1950, 16 peddlers were arrested in Pao-chi for obtaining narcotics from Szechwan and peddling them in Pao-chi. It was pointed out that the narcotics were sent to Pao-chi in motorvehicle tires, oil tanks, hot-water bottles, sewing machines, canned food, and postal packages, and that the narcotics were sent principally from Po-chou, Anhwei; Shang-ch'iun, Honan; Ch'eng-tu, Szechwan; and from Canton (2)

A pro-KMT paper stated that Communist authorities have been secretly exporting opium to obtain gasoline, metals, medicines, and other strategic materials from abroad, and that a large amount of opium being exported from China comes from the USSR, and from Shensi and Jehol provinces. The same source stated that most of the opium is being sent to Tientsin, smuggled out to an unidentified place, and distributed abroad; and that last year this unidentified place handled 32 million ounces of opium worth 80 million US. dollars (3)

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With regard to poppy raising, a pro-Communist paper reported that during 1950, 110,164 mou of the 177,700 mou of the poppy-growing area in 89 hsiens of Shensi, Kansu, Ningsia, and Tsinghai, was uprooted and planted with other agricultural crops.(2) However, a pro-KMT paper revealed that in Hsi-chiang, Kwangtung, some corrupt peasant association cadres banded with local government officials to raise about 100 mou of poppy plants in Lo-ting, Te-ch'ing, Yu-nan, Hsin-hsing, and Yu-fu hsiens. To hide the poppy plants from the view of passersby, sugar cane and maize are planted around them, the paper said.(4)

A pro-KMT paper also carried a report of a survey made by a UN committee during this year. The report pinpoints the poppy-growing areas in China as Szechwan, Yunnan, Sikang, Kweichow, Jehol, Chahar, Suiyuan, and Shensi.(3)

## DOURCES

- 1. Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 4 Jun 51
- 2. Sian, Ch'un-chung Jih-pao, 31 Dec 50
- 3. Hong Kong, Kung-shang Jih-pao, 17 Apr 51
- 4. Hong Kong, Kung-shang Jih-pao, 29 May 51

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